

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3743

LIMDIS

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, WFP, UN, FAO
SUBJECT: WFP: DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP

REF: STATE 042013

1. DURING CALL ON WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VOGEL AT HIS REQUEST, HE REFERRED TO U.S. VIEWS HE RECIEVED IN WASHINGTON ON HIS INTENDED CHOICE FOR DEPUTY AND INDICATED HE WAS NOW WATCHING TO SEE WHAT CAME FROM NEW YORK, SINCE HE WAS AWARE WE APPROACHING WALDHEIM.

2. BAKER STRESSED STRENGTH OF U.S. VIEWS DRAWING ON PARA 4 OF REFTEL. HE QUERIED VOGEL ON DEGREE SUPPORT BRITO HAD. VOGEL REPLIED THAT BRITO HAD LA SUPPORT, STRONG SUPPORT FROM BRASILIA, AND "SUPPORT IN NEW YORK," ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPECIFY WALDHEIM. BAKER ASKED WHETHER, GIVEN FAIRLY LOW PERCENT OF WFP INPUTS FROM AND OUTPUTS IN LATIN AMERICAN, AND LATIN AMERICAN WAS THE OBVIOUS CHOICE. VOGEL REPLIED SOMEWHAT UNCONVINCINGLY THAT IT APPEARED THAT A LATIN AMERICAN SHOULD HAVE THIS POSITION
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AND THAT BRITO WAS BEST HE COULD GET, WHILE ADMITTEDLY NOT EXPERT IN THE AREA, HE WAS INTELLIGENT, WOULD LEARN QUICKLY, AND WOULD, HE THOUGHT, OPERATE ABLY AS A SENIOR INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANT.

3. BAKER OBSERVED THAT, SINCE THERE HAD UNTIL RECENTLY BEEN A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN IN THE POSITION, SINCE AN AMERICAN

WOULD NOW HAVE A RESPONSIBLE POSITION UNDER DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND SINCE WE ARE THE MAJOR SUPPORTER OF THE PROGRAM, IT WAS NATURAL THAT WE WOULD FAVOR HAVING THERE AN INDIVIDUAL WITH WHOM WE COULD MAINTAIN AN OPEN, FORTHCOMING, ALL-CARDS-ON-THE-TABLE RELATIONSHIP OF KIND WE HAD WITH USTUN. VOGEL STATED THAT IF BRITO COULD NOT OR DID NOT MAINTAIN THAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP, HE WOULDN'T LAST IN WFP.

4. COMMENT: VOGEL'S HANDLING OF BRITO ISSUE MADE IT CLEAR HE NOT BACKING OFF AND WAS SIMPLY WAITING TO SEE WHETHER AND HOW STRONGLY WALDHEIM TOOK ON THE ISSUE. IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT WALDHEIM TO TAKE UP NOMINATION WITH SUFFICIENT FORCE TO UNTRACK IT.

5. VOGEL DID NOT MENTION SAOUMA AT ALL IN THIS CONNECTION BUT DID COMMENT THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO MISS PRE-CFA MTGS BECAUSE OF LONDON ACC, WHICH HE HAD TO ATTEND AT VERY LEAST IN ORDER TO UNDERLINE WFP'S IDENTITY. THAT THIS WAS BEING TROD UPON WAS EVIDENCED BY HIS COMMENT THAT HE IS PROTESTING SAOUMA'S MESSAGE OF FEBRUARY 2 TO GOVERNMENTS ON LAOS, A SITUATION ON WHICH HE FELT WFP RATHER THAN FAO SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE ACTION ORGANIZATION. HOLMES

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